

JANUARY

1996

OPEN ARMS

VOL. 8 NUMBER 1

..... MICHIANA'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

REACTIONARIES; Coming Around



In reading *Modern Maturity Magazine*, I ran across an article that I thought our readers would be interested in. This is Sept.-Oct., 95 edition, pp. 68 - 79.

An Indian, Russell Mean, was interviewed by Mr. Wideman. Mr. Mean has been active in sports, dance, computer programming, and movies, his most famous being *The Last of the Mohicans* and *Pocahontas*.

Regarding the popular image of Indians as cold-blooded warriors.....Understanding that the easiest thing to do in life is kill, it was a dishonor to kill. When we had disagreements or met one another, the biggest accomplishment was to touch the enemy and live to tell about it...not to kill. We didn't go around torturing, maiming, and killing white people either...unless we suffered such horrendous atrocities that our rage knew no bounds.

Our societies are matriarchal..ruled by mothers and mothers never want to kill babies or anything that's living. When you understand matriarchal societies, you can understand life itself because women create. Women create and give birth. My God, they give birth. Just think of that. It's awesome, mind-boggling. I can't conceive of that, no male can. They're the only living beings on Earth purified naturally by the universe, in exact time with the moon. **How can God be a male entity? I find that insulting.**

Look at these man-made thought-up, man-created religions with a deity that's a man. I don't care if you're a Buddhist, a Hindu, a

Jew, Moslem or Christian, every one of those religions justifies imperialism and male supremacy in the name of its male gods. It's scary. This world won't recognize women.

How the males in Mr. Means' Tribe recognizes women....We want to get in balance with the female, so we create purification ceremonies for boys and men to bring us to an understanding of what it's like to give birth. We dance the Sun Dance for four days, facing the sun, following the sun, all day, sunup to sundown. During those four days and nights, we do not eat or drink water so we can try to begin to understand the suffering of pregnancy. You see, when you eat food it has to go to two people. The body starts relying on itself, within. Eating itself. On the fourth day we pierce our chests, maybe even our backs, to understand the pain and the giving of flesh and blood the woman goes through.

(I thought this has merit, because if men experienced all that goes into creating a new life, perhaps they would think better of ending it.)

The ritual is about taking responsibility. Exposing your vulnerability. I try to tell our young people that if it wasn't for our women, we would not remain a distinct people. I want the world to know, my children to know, what our women have done. **They're not squaws, they're heroes.** Our women had a lot to do with the AIM occupation of Wounded Knee in 1973 that challenged the federal

Continued on Page 3

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday

7-9 p.m.

For info, write:

LSG

P.O. Box 1612

Mishawaka, IN 46544

3RD FRIDAY OUT

Doc Pierce's Restaurant

120 N. Main, Mishawaka

Friday, Jan. 19th, 7:00 p.m.

For reservations, call Jackie by
Wednesday, Jan. 17th, at (219)-291-
5837

EVENTS COORDINATORS

Third Friday Out: Jackie (219)-291-5837

Sunday Brunch: Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Sue (219)-272-3477

Sheree (816)-684-6365

Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338

Advertising: Kaye & Marcia

Subscriptions: Kaye & Marcia

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier.

Thanks.



N.D. BASKETBALL

Jan.	6	Boston College	2pm
	10	Syracuse	7pm
	18	Connecticut	7pm
	21	Georgetown	2pm
	24	St. John's	7pm
Feb.	7	Pittsburgh	7pm
	14	Villanova	7pm
	20	Miami	7pm

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Mountain Moving Coffee House, Chicago

Jan. 13 Black Dyke (Video)

Jan. 27 Minnie Carey, poet.

Feb. 10 Heather Bishop

for information write 1545 W. Morse or
call 312-477-8362

Concerts in Indianapolis

Jan. 27 Kate Clinton & Co. (Madame Walker Theater)

Feb. 1-4, 8-11, 1996 Judith Sloan's, "Denial of the Fittest"

Call: 317-637-2906

Apr. 12 Paula Poundstone (Clowe's Memorial Hall: (317)-921-6444

Olivia Cruises

Apr. 8-15, 1996 Grand Caribbean

Jun. 25-Jul. 3, 1996 Alaska

call 1-800-631-6277 for information

Seattle singer/comedienne Lisa Koch has released a new CD "You Make My Pants Pound and other show tunes"—a collection of way-off Broadway show tunes. Contact: Tonguein Chic Records, 1202 E. Pike, Suite 712, Seattle WA, 98122, (206)-760-8864.

Reactionaries (Continued from Page 1).... government's breaking of treaties. They led it. They were among the first negotiators with the federal government, but their role's been pushed aside. If it weren't for AIM, we might have completely, conveniently, disappeared as a people from the U.S.

MM... "African women also have a long history of resisting European imperialism. They refused to carry their goods to market, led strikes, fought tax collectors, participated in armed struggles. But until recently, their place in the forefront of liberation movements was largely ignored."

The Eurocentric male will not recognize women, indigenous or otherwise, as being a valuable force in humanity.

When asked about surviving with dignity, being who you are.....They won't let you. If they won't let us be Indians, they're not going to let anybody else be what they truly are. **The Eurocentric male society is all about control because he fears the unknown.** He doesn't understand the woman, so he has to control the woman. He fears death, he fears the forest, he fears any place that's dark and lights up the night the best he can. He fears dark people. It's impossible to be yourself in this society because every time a white man does something, we have to react. So we're all reactionaries, women and the rest of us.

The white man is the luckiest human being on Earth, and he should recognize it. The rest of us have so much respect for life that we'll even respect his life. But his Christianity teaches him nothing of that stuff. All he's after is control. **He perceives having money and material possessions as being in control.**

Eurocentric male's think they can eat up the environment and still have a place to go. Even a fox doesn't do that. There isn't a living being on Earth that eats up its own environment except the Eurocentric male.

To indigenous people, Earth is a living being. Because she is the mother of all living beings, you are related to everything that lives.

On time...I'll declare that there is no time. There is no death. All the brilliant scientists in the West have no understanding of infinity. Life is

not linear....there's no beginning and middle and end. It's a cycle, the universe is continually reborn.

Regarding Dr. Kevorkian....I don't consider him a hero, but he recognizes people who are saying, "I want to change worlds." What happened to the great Christian teachings when it comes to death? Western society doesn't heed any of it, so everyone fears death. Life doesn't end; therefore, you don't have to be afraid of it.



LAVENDAR RHYTHM Dance Committee is looking for wimmin to display their crafts, hobbies, and ect. at our next dance on Saturday, March 9, 1996. The display area will be adjacent to the dance floor so that wimmin who are attending the dance can look over the display. At present, we have 6 wimmin who will be displaying their wares, and we would like more to participate. If you are interested please write to: Lavendar Rhythm, P.O. Box 1002, Niles, Michigan, 49120

OPEN ARMS MEMORIAL

DAWN KNAFLA

March 8, 1959 - November 28, 1995

Although her life was short, it is amazing the number of our lives that she touched and enriched with her zest for fun and adventure. Whether it was on a softball field, a golf course, working at a youth church camp, or parachuting from an airplane - she was one of the best. May we all keep a flame alive in us for Dawn as we meet life's challenges, with the same courage and positive attitude.

Our condolences to Lori - Dawn's partner. We watched Dawn getting tired, and when a cure was not forthcoming, Lori continued to provide Dawn with care and support until the end. We hope Lori feels the comfort and support everyone sends her and we wish her the best of luck as life's travels take her onto new challenges and adventures.

COURT OF FRIENDS

SINGLES

O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to:

The Court of Friends

P.O.Box 1281

Niles, MI 49120

(Be sure to include your address.)

Your identity will be assigned an ID number. Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue.) Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil). Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O.Box.

Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. *COME ON SINGLES! Someone special wants to know you're out there!*

43 Sensible, professional, fun-loving lesbian, looking for same! If you are adventurous, kind-hearted, thirty-ish, and enjoy life, I've been looking for you for a long time!

44 **LOOKING FOR SOMEONE:** ... Single, attractive, 30-40 ... Professional, employed, college-educated...Doesn't smoke, do drugs, drink beyond occasion...Honest, loyal, romantic... God, spirituality, values are important...Appreciates nature, the arts, humor...Communicative, mutual, healthy relationship important...Old-fashioned, liberal, open-minded...Motivated, high aspirations and goals...Wants possible serious, long term

relationship with a strong friendship foundation.

45. **NEW YEAR / NEW LOVE.** Will 1996 be our year? This GWPF, mid - 30's, seeks her feminine soulmate to help her rediscover life and love. Interests include golf, bowling, skiing, fishing, music, movies, theater, poetry, photography, nature and quiet evenings snuggling at home. Take a chance on this old - fashioned romantic; She's worth it!!!

46. Active 51 year old. I'm honest, gentle and loving. I enjoy camping, long walks, cards, chess, baseball games, dancing and just being together.

Looking for a woman between 45 - 60 with similar interest. Start with friendship and see what happens.

No drugs, non-drinker, no bi's, smoker O.K.

Friends,

There's been considerable activity this past month. I know of two positive connections being made. There's been long talks on the phone and promises to rendezvous. Exciting times, these!

Remember, all of you who are faint of heart, *Ships are safe in the harbor, but that's not what ships are built for.*



P.S. If you have any constructive ideas concerning ways to make this section better serve your needs, please write and share your ideas. Also, if you have something that you would like to say to our wimin, even though it is not an ad, please feel free to submit it.

Be you Schooner, canoe, or row boat,....
.....Sail on!



CROSSING THE LINE

by Lee Lynch



One by one, holding hands, the men, some in suits, and the women, some white-haired, crossed the line to be arrested. Three to four hundred protestors broke the stillness of the old growth forest with applause. A woman broke into a searing scream, giving voice to the mutilation going on around us.

This was a protest against the timber "sale" called Sugarloaf. We tried to stop the greed that was, at that same moment, powering chain saws that severed trunks of trees so old only wild animals and the ancestors of Native Americans had seen the saplings.

On our way up the Caves Highway in southern Oregon, the log trucks roared past us. The rent-a-cops were already waiting, paid for by the timber company, *Boise Cascade*. We stood in a respectful circle asking the forest to welcome us.

It was another day of shame for America. The same radicals who refuse to recognize their common humanity with gay people refuse to honor nature itself. The radicals knew legislation to take the timber would never pass on its own, so they added a so-called "salvage rider" to an appropriations bill. Neither profit nor competitive bidding was required. We taxpayers not only got nothing from the dirty deal, other environmental laws including the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts were lifted for these sales.

Many of the right-wing politicians who gave away Sugarloaf were elected on platforms which included anti-gay provisions. Now they are feeding corporate greed and irreparably damaging the quality of life provided by these last untouched American lands.

It's not just Oregon: the Everglades in Florida, the red rock canyon country of southern Utah, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, the wetlands in your town - - this ecological holocaust goes on and on.

Out in the Sugarloaf woods, I saw everyday people, kids who'd stayed out of school, politicians and environmental advocates. I stood beside heterosexual folks I'd met while fighting the anti-gay ballot measures. It seems like people who respect life, respect life in all its forms.

So much I hold dear seems to be on the line - - the right to health care for the old and poor, the right to jobs and housing for gays, the right to clean air and water. This informal coalition of human rights and environmental activists can accomplish great things.

I remember the old woman from the wildlife refuge who came to town for help. Laws allow farmers to use water from the refuge for irrigation. It was a drought year. When the pelicans came, as they always did, by the hundreds, to birth and raise their young, there was no water. The baby pelicans, forced to march miles to water with their parents, dropped and died. The woman got no help from regulating agencies. Alone, she carried some of the babies. She exhorted us to write letters, to make phone calls. When the pelicans returned the next year, there was more water, partly because one old woman spoke out and reached out.

We do not know the extent of our careless cruelties, nor can we imagine the breadth of our concerted power.

At the Sugarloaf demonstration, the police arrested ninety-five protesters, but not until they were out of sight of the media. One reporter risked confiscation of his equipment and was tackled by police. A white-haired woman was maced trying to protect him.

The Sugarloaf giants are at the mills. The baby pelicans are dead. Gay kids are still killing themselves and poor people are scared. The old women cannot stop the radical right alone. We can't either. In the chain of life we all need one another.

Copyright Lee Lynch 1995

Author Lee Lynch has written many novels and short stories including *Home in Your Hands*, *Morton River Valley*, and her latest *Cactus Love*. Her books may be found locally at Little Professor Book Center or Barnes & Noble Booksellers. Lee Lynch's novels are published by **The Naiad Press, Inc.** and can be ordered by mail from: **The Naiad Press, P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, Florida, 32302 904-539-5965**

Please visit and support the following feminist bookstores: **Aquarius Books Inc.**, 306 S. Washington St., Bloomington, Ind. 812-336-0988, **Dreams and Swords**, 6503 Ferguson St., Indianapolis, Ind. 317-253-9966, **Earth and Sky**, 6 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids, Mich. 616-458-3520, and **Pandora Books for Open Minds**, 226 W. Lovell, Kalamazoo, Mich. 616-388-5656.

Open Arms would like to announce a CONTEST.

We would like to redesign our mast head for the newsletter. Monetary prizes will be awarded for first and second places. Everyone is invited to enter and even if you cannot draw; submit your concepts and ideas for the new masthead and we will get them drawn up if they are chosen for final selection. Five finalists will be selected by the Open Arms staff members. These finalists then will be printed in the newsletter so that our subscribers can vote on the selection of the new masthead. There will also be a voting box available at the next dance Saturday, March 9, 1996. The winners will be announced in the May newsletter and the new masthead will appear starting on the June newsletter.

Rules:

1. The size is limited to 2 1/2 inches by 7 1/2 inches. Smaller is O.K. Must be rectangular.
2. You may submit as many entries as you wish. All will be considered.
3. All entries must be received no later than February 29, 1996
4. All winning entries become the property of Open Arms
5. Final selection of the winners are left up to the Open Arms staff

Send your entries to: Open Arms, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, Indiana 46546

Michiana Momazons

Momazons is a support group for lesbians desiring children through alternative insemination and/or adoptions and with children from marriages. We meet on a monthly basis. If you are thinking about motherhood, trying to get pregnant or adopt, or already are a lesbian mother, you may be interested in participating in our group. We provide support, information sharing, resource options and great storytelling about our individual experiences as we pursue motherhood. Contact Momazons of Michiana P.O.Box 1002, Niles, Michigan 49120



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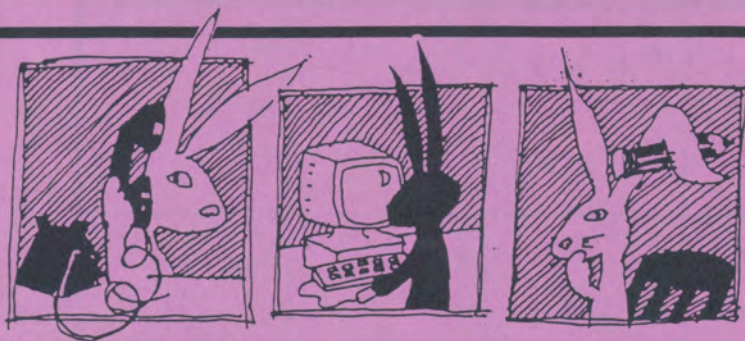
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January 1996

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
	1	2 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	3 NOW Meeting St. Joe Library 7:00 p.m.	4	5	6																																																																																											
7 Open Arms Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	8	9 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	10	11	12	13																																																																																											
14	15	16 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	17 Reservations due for Third Fri. Out	18	19 Third Friday Out 7:00 p.m.	20																																																																																											
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28 PFLAG Meeting 2:00-4:00 p.m.	29	30 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	31	December 95 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> February 96 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td></tr> </table>			S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
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MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the December *Open Arms* is January 10th. Submissions can be mailed to Open Arms, P. O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or given to Sheree or Kaye. Submissions received after January 10th may not be published in the February newsletter.

Newsletter meeting: Sunday, January 7th, 1996, at 6:30p.m. Call 271-0338 for directions.